



Weekly Crop & Weather Roundup



Cooperating with the Pennsylvania Department of Agriculture

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Week Ending September 16, 2012

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This report can be found on the Internet at www.nass.usda.gov/pa and click on "Pennsylvania Publications."

Excellent Week for Field Work: Pennsylvania had an average of 6 days suitable for field work. Field activities for the week included planting small grains, harvesting apples, corn for grain and corn silage. Fall plowing continues and is 29% complete, ahead of last year's 27% and even with the average.

PA Topsoil Moisture for Week Ending Sep 16th, 2012

Very Short	Short	Adequate	Surplus
Percent	Percent	Percent	Percent
5	40	55	0

Crop Progress: Corn is 84% at the dent stage, ahead of 74% at this time last year and the average of 75%. Corn is 44% at the mature stage; ahead of 21% at this time last year and the average of 32%. The harvest of corn for grain has begun and is 5% complete, ahead for last year's 2% but behind the average of 8%. The corn silage harvest continues at 60% complete, compared to 33% at this time last year and the average of 51%. Barley and winter wheat are now being planted. Seventeen percent of the barley crop has been planted, ahead of last year's 6% at this time and even with the average. Winter wheat is now 10% planted, ahead of the last year's 2% and the average 7%. Tobacco harvest is 89% complete, ahead of 70% at this time last year and the average of 83%. The potato harvest is 58% complete, ahead of last year's 30% and the average of 40%. Fourth cutting of alfalfa is 78% complete compared with 49% at this time last year and the average of 56%. The apple harvest is 60% complete, ahead of 50% at this time last year and the average of 49%. Grape harvest now at 35% complete, compared to 8% at this time last year and the average of 6%.

Crop Condition: State-wide corn conditions are; 2% very poor, 10% poor, 29% fair, 44% good, and 15% excellent. Soybean conditions are; 0% very poor, 5% poor, 26% fair, 48% good, and 21% excellent. Pasture conditions are; 9% very poor, 22% poor, 35% fair, 31% good and 3% excellent.

Nationwide as of September 9, 2012: Warmer-than-normal weather blanketed much of the country during the week. Temperatures averaged more than 8°F above normal in portions of the southern Great Plains, where producers

waited for additional moisture before seeding overwintered small grain crops. Much of the West was dry, but showers and thunderstorms brought much-needed rainfall to most areas east of the Great Plains during the week. The rain helped to replenish soil moisture, while producers harvested summer row crops and prepared to seed winter wheat. Most notably, storms dumped rainfall in excess of 6 inches on central Alabama during the week.

Corn: Nationally, 93 percent of the corn crop was at or beyond the dent stage by week's end, 13 percentage points ahead of last year and 16 points ahead of the 5-year average. Fifty-eight percent of this year's crop was reported as mature by September 9, thirty-three percentage points ahead of last year and 31 points ahead of the 5-year average. Harvest advanced 5 percentage points to 15 percent complete by week's end, 10 percentage points ahead of both last year and the 5-year average. Above-average rainfall in portions of the eastern Corn Belt slowed fieldwork during the week, but helped to recharge soil moisture. In Iowa, producers shifted their focus to harvesting fields with weaker stalks or wind damage. Overall, 22 percent of the corn crop was reported in good to excellent condition, unchanged from last week but 31 percentage points below the same time last year.

Soybeans: By September 9, leaf drop had advanced to 36 percent complete, 24 percentage points ahead of last year and 16 points ahead of the 5-year average. Aided by warm weather, many soybean fields in the Midwest were maturing rapidly. By week's end, producers had harvested 4 percent of the nation's soybean crop, 3 percentage points ahead of last year and 2 points ahead of the 5-year average. Overall, 32 percent of the soybean crop was reported in good to excellent condition, up 2 percentage points from last week but 24 percentage points below the same time last year.

Winter Wheat: Many producers waited for improved soil moisture levels before planting their crop, but seeding of the 2013 winter wheat crop was underway in several states. By September 9, four percent of the next year's crop was in the ground, slightly behind seeding progress in 2011 and 2 percentage points behind the 5-year average. **Small Grains:** Barley producers had harvested 95 percent of this year's crop by week's end, 16 percentage points ahead of last year and 13 points ahead of the 5-year average.

Weather Data For Week Ending September 16, 2012

Station	Last Week Weather Summary						April 1 - September 16, 2012					
	Temperature			Precipitation			Precipitation			GDD Base 50F		Base 40F
	High	Low	Average	DFN	Total	Days	Total	DFN	Days	Total	DFN	Total
Northwest												
Erie	83	48	64	0	0.43	2	14.48	-6.23	51	2,897	579	4,419
Franklin_AG	84	43	61	-3	0.33	4	16.72	-6.34	68	2,677	514	4,196
Meadville-Port	81	46	62	2	0.20	2	18.28	-4.69	60	2,755	772	4,289
Clarion	80	42	59	-5	0.21	2	19.67	-4.33	62	2,355	179	3,856
Springboro	82	41	59	-5	0.40	2	18.46	-1.82	62	2,388	99	3,872
Warren	83	43	61	-2	0.43	2	18.60	-4.49	65	2,506	408	4,009
North Central												
Bradford Region	79	37	56	-2	0.22	2	19.39	-3.73	64	2,204	675	3,690
Oswayo	80	35	56	-3	0.28	2	18.15	-3.68	59	1,943	258	3,400
Kane	79	36	58	2	0.21	2	21.54	-1.94	66	2,002	503	3,464
Laporte	73	43	57	-5	0.15	1	28.28	6.99	70	2,175	27	3,668
Lock Haven	83	43	62	-2	0.12	2	19.61	-1.35	70	2,859	582	4,447
Coudersport_1SW	79	38	57	-3	0.34	2	22.81	0.98	74	2,048	363	3,507
Renovo	82	45	62	-1	0.20	2	23.78	2.82	65	2,783	506	4,362
Ridgway	82	37	57	-3	0.24	2	17.13	-5.84	67	2,349	623	3,853
Stevenson Dam	83	45	62	4	0.11	2	21.79	-1.18	60	2,666	940	4,227
Towanda	82	41	60	-2	0.49	1	21.31	3.62	66	2,568	404	4,089
Wellsboro	79	39	57	-2	0.28	2	17.12	-0.65	62	2,099	472	3,588
Williamsport	81	44	63	-1	0.04	1	17.45	-3.19	68	3,071	561	4,672
Northeast												
Hawley	81	40	58	-2	0.12	2	17.89	-2.24	63	2,292	434	3,790
Wilkes-Barre/Sc	81	43	62	-2	0.41	2	19.30	-0.24	69	2,913	531	4,472
Susquehanna	80	41	60	2	0.29	2	24.41	2.97	64	2,453	688	3,961
West Central												
Butler	83	41	60	-4	0.03	1	17.73	-4.13	60	2,705	464	4,262
New Castle	87	44	63	0	0.12	2	21.52	1.63	58	2,932	689	4,500
Slippery Rock	87	39	62	1	0.21	2	20.56	-0.71	58	2,813	794	4,373
Central												
Altoona/Blair	81	42	61	-3	0.00	0	18.76	-0.17	61	2,910	525	4,508
DuBois	78	41	59	-3	0.20	2	16.14	-5.82	57	2,503	434	4,037
Lewistown	84	46	64	-2	0.06	2	20.07	-0.32	75	3,049	433	4,671
Middletown	81	51	65	-3	0.22	1	23.17	2.98	64	3,395	446	5,038
Prince Gallitzi	81	36	58	-3	0.37	2	19.89	-4.50	59	2,452	530	3,995
Selinsgrove	81	44	62	-3	0.18	1	20.34	-0.78	70	2,907	457	4,490
State College	79	46	62	-2	0.12	2	21.00	1.86	73	2,838	482	4,426
East Central												
Allentown-Bethel	81	45	63	-3	0.05	1	22.61	0.48	64	3,152	453	4,768
Lehighton	75	44	60	-5	0.11	1	24.79	2.83	70	2,672	66	4,255
Matamoras	79	44	62	-2	0.17	2	23.82	1.62	82	2,746	389	4,332
Mt_Pocono	79	39	59	2	0.11	1	21.95	-1.66	74	2,344	724	3,874
Southwest												
Pittsburgh/Alle	83	47	65	1	0.03	1	16.17	-4.05	61	3,258	861	4,867
Indiana_PA	81	41	60	-5	0.16	2	20.13	-3.53	85	2,789	469	4,352
Myersdale	81	36	57	-7	0.09	2	19.18	-3.77	69	2,159	-73	3,679
Chalk_Hill	77	36	57	-9	0.79	2	21.31	-1.17	69	2,227	-327	3,755
Pittsburgh Intl	83	46	64	-2	0.02	1	18.57	-0.46	59	3,142	633	4,742
Connellsville	81	44	61	-5	0.11	2	21.95	-0.53	71	2,873	319	4,483
Waynesburg	82	43	61	-3	0.13	1	16.56	-4.29	56	2,816	488	4,402
South Central												
Biglerville	81	46	63	-4	0.00	0	21.42	2.48	61	3,165	284	4,795
Everett	82	38	60	-5	0.00	0	19.42	1.01	67	2,618	242	4,194
Hanover	80	45	63	-5	0.00	0	21.28	2.34	65	3,108	227	4,727
Harrisburg_AP	80	48	64	-4	0.12	1	23.60	3.41	64	3,435	479	5,080
South Mountain	76	42	59	-5	0.02	1	25.75	6.82	69	2,564	186	4,131
York	81	43	62	-6	0.00	0	19.45	-0.96	67	3,101	234	4,705
Southeast												
Green Lane	80	46	64	-2	0.00	0	25.00	3.55	64	3,131	550	4,761
Hamburg	80	46	63	-1	0.03	1	22.67	-2.00	69	3,069	707	4,686
West_Chester	82	44	63	-5	0.00	0	22.64	-0.59	47	3,106	244	4,714
Lancaster	80	45	63	-3	0.00	0	19.34	-2.25	53	3,240	513	4,859
Neshaminy Falls	82	47	65	-2	0.00	0	22.76	-2.12	67	3,242	547	4,890
New Holland	82	48	65	-1	0.00	0	23.07	1.48	53	3,311	584	4,963
Philadelphia	81	54	69	-1	0.00	0	19.70	-1.41	46	3,778	653	5,447
Philadelphia NE	80	50	66	-4	0.00	0	24.09	2.98	55	3,458	333	5,108
Reading	82	47	65	-2	0.00	0	19.19	-3.88	65	3,426	744	5,064
Sellersville	79	43	63	-3	0.00	0	24.15	2.70	53	2,901	320	4,490
Doylestown_AG	81	48	65	-2	0.00	0	23.08	-1.80	56	3,254	559	4,887

DFN = Departure from normal (using 1961-90 normals period).

Precipitation (rainfall or melted snow or ice) and pan evaporation in inches.

Precipitation days = days with precipitation of .01 inch or more.

Air temperatures in degrees fahrenheit.

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REPORTERS COMMENTS, By County

Reporters are from Extension Service (Ext), Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), Farm Service Agency (FSA), Conservation District (CD), farmers, commodity specialists, or other knowledgeable individuals.

ADAMS COUNTY, Judy A. Behney

Adams County had a nice week of weather. Mornings were cool mostly in the 50's and daytimes 70's and end of week 80 degrees. No humidity which made it feel fall like conditions.

Corn silage continues to be harvested. Corn for grain is drying down nicely and will soon be combined. Some later corn is still maturing and green. Yields will be all over the board depending on when it was planted and what stage it was in when it was dry in June/July. Soybeans continue to grow and earlier planted soybeans are now starting to change color as they mature. Hay continues to be made when re-growth is there. Some soil is being prepared for small grain seedings, and where corn silage has been harvested the producers are getting ready to no-till small grains.

Apples continue to be harvested. The value of the apple crop is very good this year for processing and fresh fruit markets. The reason for the higher prices is some states normally that have apple production have suffered loss of crop due to last spring's cold temperatures. Cider prices will also be affected this year. Vegetables are being harvested in the county and fairing pretty good crops.

Overall the producers of Adams are busy harvesting their crops and some are a little more than what they had anticipated. They are also hoping the weather conditions hold up for continuing to harvest and to get some small grains planted this year, as last year's weather was too wet and Adams County had 3000+ acres of prevented planting wheat.

ADAMS COUNTY, Lee Showalter

Harvest is complete on Gala apples. Harvest is in full swing on Golden Delicious with harvest starting on Red Delicious. Volumes have been good with most growers picking long on Golden Delicious.

CAMBRIA COUNTY, Dolly Little

Harvesting potatoes and silage and preparation for planting winter wheat and rye cover crop are the main activities this week. Some hay harvest.

CENTRE COUNTY, Dick Decker

Good week for outdoor work. Top soil moisture low; in need of rain.

CLARION COUNTY, Tom Tanner

Many acres of corn silage harvested. Fall seedings are being planted.

FRANKLIN COUNTY, Thomas Kerr

Dry week for corn harvest (silage, high moisture, and grain). Corn is drying down fast. Yields vary according to planting time and soil type. Soybeans are still a few weeks away. Apple harvest is moving along rapidly with dry weather.

LANCASTER COUNTY, Jeffrey Graybill

Corn silage harvest is winding down, but corn grain harvest will get underway next week. This is about 1-2 weeks ahead of many years.

LEBANON COUNTY, Charlene Ziegler

It was a very nice week weather wise. A good week for baling alfalfa and grass hay. Silage corn continues to be harvested. Cover crops were seeded.

MERCER COUNTY, James P. Rust

Fourth cuttings of hay that were top-dressed with fertilizer a month ago are producing high yields this fall. It was an excellent week for hay making with the 80 plus degrees temperatures Monday-Thursday. Late plantings of sweet corn are on schedule to be the best of the season. Silo filling continues at a fast pace as corn is drying down quickly. Soybeans fields are also maturing quickly during the past stretch of 80-plus degree temperatures.

PERRY COUNTY, David L. Swartz

Alfalfa producers harvested fifth cutting this week. Due to the exceptionally good weather, the quality of the alfalfa made was excellent.

SNYDER COUNTY, William C. Sheaffer

Filling silo is in full swing and the yield is respectable. Soybeans are turning yellow and beginning to drop the leaves. The main activities for the week were silo filling and making preparations for fall harvest and seeding.

PA Crop Progress for Week Ending September 16, 2012

Crop	Current Week	Last Year	5-Year Average
	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>
Fall plowing	29	27	29
Corn, dent	84	74	75
Corn, mature	44	21	32
Corn, harvested	5	2	8
Corn silage, harvested	60	33	51
Barley, planted	17	6	17
Winter wheat, planted	10	2	7
Tobacco, harvested	89	70	83
Potatoes, harvested	58	30	40
Alfalfa, 4th cutting	78	49	56
Apples, harvested	60	50	49
Grapes, harvested	35	8	6

PA Crop Condition for Week Ending September 16, 2012

Crop	Very Poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>	<i>Percent</i>
Corn	2	10	29	44	15
Soybeans	0	5	26	48	21
Pasture	9	22	35	31	3

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